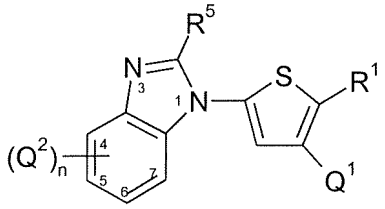
Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I):



I

wherein:

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, $-C(O)R^7$, $-CO_2R^7$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-C(O)N(R^7)OR^8$, $-C(O)N(R^7)-R^2-OR^8$, $-C(O)N(R^7)$-Ph, $-C(O)N(R^7)-R^2$-Ph, $-C(O)N(R^7)C(O)R^8$, $-C(O)N(R^7)CO_2R^8$, $-C(O)N(R^7)C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-C(O)N(R^7)S(O)_2R^8$, $-R^2-OR^7$, $-R^2-O-C(O)R^7$, $-C(S)R^7$, $-C(S)NR^7R^8$, $-C(S)N(R^7)$-Ph, $-C(S)N(R^7)-R^2$-Ph, $-R^2-SR^7$, $-C(=NR^7)NR^7R^8$, $-C(=NR^7)N(R^8)$-Ph, $-C(=NR^7)N(R^8)-R^2$-Ph, $-R^2-NR^7R^8$, -CN, $-OR^7$, $-S(O)_fR^7$, $-S(O)_2NR^7R^8$, $-S(O)_2N(R^7)$-Ph, $-S(O)_2N(R^7)-R^2$-Ph, $-NR^7R^8$, $N(R^7)$-Ph, $-N(R^7)-R^2$-Ph, $-N(R^7)-SO_2R^8$ and Het;

Ph is phenyl optionally substituted from 1 to 3 times with a substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, alkyl, -OH, $-R^2$-OH, -O-alkyl, $-R^2$-O-alkyl, $-NH_2$, -N(H)alkyl, $-N(alkyl)_2$, -CN and $-N_3$;

Het is a 5-7 membered heterocycle having 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S, or a 5-6 membered heteroaryl having 1, 2, 3 or 4 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S, each optionally substituted from 1 to 2 times with a substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, alkyl, oxo, -OH, $-R^2$-OH, -O-alkyl, $-R^2$-O-alkyl, $-NH_2$, -N(H)alkyl, $-N(alkyl)_2$, -CN and $-N_3$;

Q^1 is a group of formula: $-(R^2)_a-(Y^1)_b-(R^2)_c-R^3$

a, b and c are the same or different and are each independently 0 or 1 and at least one of a or b is 1;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

Q^2 is a group of formula: $-(R^2)_{aa}-(Y^2)_{bb}-(R^2)_{cc}-R^4$

or two adjacent Q^2 groups are selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, $-OR^7$, $-S(O)_fR^7$ and $-NR^7R^8$ and together with the carbon atoms to which they are bound, they form a C_{5-6}cycloalkyl,

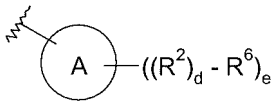
C_{5-6}cycloalkenyl, phenyl, 5-7 membered heterocycle having 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S, or 5-6 membered heteroaryl having 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S;

aa, bb and cc are the same or different and are each independently 0 or 1;

each Y^1 and Y^2 is the same or different and is independently selected from the group consisting of –O-, -$S(O)_f$-, –$N(R^7)$-, -C(O)-, -OC(O)-, -CO_2-, -$C(O)N(R^7)$-, -$C(O)N(R^7)S(O)_2$-, -$OC(O)N(R^7)$-, -$OS(O)_2$-, -$S(O)_2N(R^7)$-, -$S(O)_2N(R^7)C(O)$-, -$N(R^7)S(O)_2$-, -$N(R^7)C(O)$-, -$N(R^7)CO_2$- and -$N(R^7)C(O)N(R^7)$-;

each R^2 is the same or different and is independently selected from the group consisting of alkylene, alkenylene and alkynylene;

each R^3 and R^4 is the same or different and is each independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, -$C(O)R^7$, -$C(O)NR^7R^8$, -CO_2R^7, -$C(S)R^7$, -$C(S)NR^7R^8$, -$C(=NR^7)R^8$, -$C(=NR^7)NR^7R^8$, -CR^7=N-OR^7, -OR^7, -$S(O)_fR^7$, -$S(O)_2NR^7R^8$, -NR^7R^8, -$N(R^7)C(O)R^8$, -$N(R^7)S(O)_2R^8$, -NO_2, -CN, –N_3 and a group of formula (ii):



ii

wherein:

Ring A is selected from the group consisting of C_{5-10}cycloalkyl, C_{5-10}cycloalkenyl, aryl, 5-10 membered heterocycle having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S and 5-10 membered heteroaryl having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S

each d is 0 or 1;

e is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

each R^6 is the same or different and is independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, Ph, Het, -CH(OH)-R^2-OH, -$C(O)R^7$, -CO_2R^7, -CO_2-R_2-Ph, -CO_2-R^2-Het, -$C(O)NR^7R^8$, -$C(O)N(R^7)C(O)R^7$, -$C(O)N(R^7)CO_2R^7$, -$C(O)N(R^7)C(O)NR^7R^8$,

$-C(O)N(R^7)S(O)_2R^7$, $-C(S)R^7$, $-C(S)NR^7R^8$, $-C(=NR^7)R^8$, $-C(=NR^7)NR^7R^8$, $-CR^7=N-OR^8$, =O, $-OR^7$, $-OC(O)R^7$, -OC(O)Ph, -OC(O)Het, $-OC(O)NR^7R^8$, $-O-R^2-S(O)_2R^7$, $-S(O)_fR^7$, $-S(O)_2NR^7R^8$, $-S(O)_2Ph$, $-S(O)_2Het$, $-NR^7R^8$, $-N(R^7)C(O)R^8$, $-N(R^7)CO_2R^8$, $-N(R^7)-R^2-CO_2R^8$, $-N(R^7)C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N(R^7)-R^2-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-N(R^7)C(O)Ph$, $-N(R^7)C(O)Het$, $-N(R^7)Ph$, $-N(R^7)Het$, $-N(R^7)C(O)NR^7-R^2-NR^7R^8$, $-N(R^7)C(O)N(R^7)Ph$, $-N(R^7)C(O)N(R^7)Het$, $-N(R^7)C(O)N(R^7)-R^2-Het$, $-N(R^7)S(O)_2R^8$, $-N(R^7)-R^2-S(O)_2R^8$, $-NO_2$, -CN and $-N_3$;

wherein when Q^1 is defined where b is 1 and c is 0, R^3 is not halo, $-C(O)R^7$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-CO_2R^7$, $-C(S)R^7$, $-C(S)NR^7R^8$, $-C(=NR^7)R^8$, $-C(=NR^7)NR^7R^8$, $-CR^7=N-OR^7$, $-OR^7$, $-S(O)_fR^7$, $-S(O)_2NR^7R^8$, $-NR^7R^8$, $-N(R^7)C(O)R^8$, $-N(R^7)S(O)_2R^8$, $-NO_2$, -CN or $-N_3$;

wherein when Q^2 is defined where bb is 1 and cc is 0, R^4 is not halo, $-C(O)R^7$, $-C(O)NR^7R^8$, $-CO_2R^7$, $-C(S)R^7$, $-C(S)NR^7R^8$, $-C(=NR^7)R^8$, $-C(=NR^7)NR^7R^8$, $-CR^7=N-OR^7$, $-OR^7$, $-S(O)_fR^7$, $-S(O)_2NR^7R^8$, $-NR^7R^8$, $-N(R^7)C(O)R^8$, $-N(R^7)S(O)_2R^8$, $-NO_2$, -CN or $-N_3$;

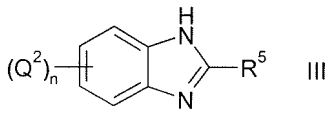
R^5 is selected from the group consisting of H, halo, alkyl, cycloalkyl, $-OR^7$, $-S(O)_fR^7$, $-NR^7R^8$, $-NHC(O)R^7$, $-NHC(O)NR^7R^8$ and $-NHS(O)_2R^7$;

f is 0, 1 or 2; and

each R^7 and each R^8 are the same or different and are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl and cycloalkenyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~,~~ or solvate ~~or physiologically functional derivative~~ thereof;

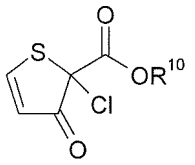
said process comprising the steps of reacting one equivalent of a compound of formula (III):



III

or an acid addition salt thereof,

with one equivalent of a compound of formula (IV):



IV

wherein R^{10} is selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl and suitable carboxylic acid protecting groups;

in the presence of a base additive selected from sodium bicarbonate, triethylamine, sodium acetate, *N*-methylimidazole, pyridine and *N*-methylbenzimidazole.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein said base additive is sodium bicarbonate.

4. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein said base additive is *N*-methylimidazole.

5. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein said reaction is carried out in an inert solvent.

6. (original) The process according to claim 5, wherein said inert solvent is chloroform or a mixture of chloroform and acetic acid.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 further comprising the step of converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt salt~~,~~ or solvate ~~or physiologically functional derivative~~ thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1 further comprising the step of converting the compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~,~~ or solvate ~~or physiologically functional derivative~~ thereof to a different compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt~~,~~ or solvate ~~or physiologically functional derivative~~ thereof.